

Jan 28, 1958

St 2

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. IX, No. 2

January 28, 1956

ORGANIZATION OF AUSTRIAN FEDERAL ARMY DECIDED. In accordance with a proposal by Chancellor Julius Raab, the Austrian Cabinet recently approved the principles which have been laid down relative to the organization of the Austrian Federal Army. According to these principles, the army will be divided into 8 operational brigades (mixed brigades) and one special brigade. The brigades will be divided into battalions and the latter into companies and squads. The operational brigades are mixed brigades organized along the lines of fast, mobile commando units. The special brigade will include the following units: 1 signal battalion, 1 engineering battalion, 1 artillery unit with heavy weapons, as well as the various military training schools. The Federal Army will include the following categories: infantry units, tank troops, antitank units, artillery units, engineering units, signal corps, transportation corps and airforce units. The class of 1937 will be the first age group to be called up for universal military service during 1956.

"RESERVE COMMANDOS" ORGANIZED. As part of the program of building up the Austrian Federal Army, "reserve commandos" have now been organized in Vienna and all of the provinces and the officers in charge have been appointed. Along with these commando units, registration offices are also being established at which applications will be received from candidates for appointment as officers or officials of the Army Administration. The President has appointed a number of higher officers for the General Staff, the troop units and the Army Administration, with appointments effective the beginning of 1956.

PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED. In accordance with the wishes of Parliament, the Federal Government, acting through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, will submit reports on foreign developments at regular intervals to a Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee which is to be formed in the near future. For reasons connected with the former occupation of Austria, the Austrian Parliament did not form a foreign affairs committee of its own when it was constituted in 1945. It is this situation which is now being remedied.

MANEUVERS AT BRUCK RESUMED. After an interruption of 18 years, units of the Austrian Federal Army recently resumed maneuvers at the troop training grounds in Bruck, Lower Austria. The military exercises were attended by numerous representatives of the press as well as by a team from the Columbia Broadcasting System preparing a cinescope report on the new Austrian Army for the American TV audience.

PROKSCH IS NEW SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER. Karl Maisel, who has been Austrian Minister for Social Welfare since 1945, has voluntarily resigned from the Cabinet. At a meeting of the Cabinet, Chancellor Julius Raab expressed gratitude to Minister Maisel for his achievements in Austrian public life since the end of the war, achievements carried out under the most difficult circumstances. The Chancellor emphasized that, first after World War I and later after World War II, Austria's social welfare legislation set an example for the entire world and that major credit for these developments belonged to Minister Maisel. He declared that Karl Maisel had built a monument to himself in the form of Austria's most recent social welfare legislation.

Maisel's successor in the Ministry of Social Welfare is Parliamentary Deputy Anton Proksch, until now General Secretary of the Austrian Trade Union Federation. Born in Vienna on April 21, 1897, Proksch is a typesetter by profession and has been active in the trade union movement since 1919. Since 1945, he has been a Socialist member of Parliament and General Secretary of the Austrian Trade Union Federation. Proksch has published numerous books and articles on questions of trade unionism and is Vice-President of the World Federation of Free Trade Unions, in which capacity he recently visited the United States.

SURVEY OF ERP AID TO AUSTRIA. Inclusive of foreign shipments effected up to April 1, 1948, the official starting date of the Marshall Plan, Austria had received 955.6 million dollars in direct and indirect aid from the United States. ERP aid to Austria was officially discontinued, at Austrian request, as of June 30, 1953. The schilling counterpart of that portion of ERP aid for which settlement was not made directly through the European Payments Union, i.e. for that aid for which merchandise delivery authorizations were issued, to date amounts to 13,468.9 million schillings in actual sales receipts. This sum does not correspond to the

THE SALZBURG MOZARTEUM ORCHESTRA
Special Supplement **On Page 7**

converted value of the authorizations, which were issued in terms of dollars. Because, in addition to the fact that the dollar exchange rate was not 26 schillings for the entire period during which ERP was in force, a number of products (e.g. foodstuffs, coal) had on many occasions to be allowed to the consumers at a greatly reduced rate. Therefore, the amount actually collected was less than the value of the aid and the difference has been formally covered by the Federal Government through the issuance of Treasury Bills. Up to September 30, 1955, such Treasury Bills in the amount of 3,155.6 million schillings were in circulation, so that on the books the counterpart schilling value amounted to something over 16.5 billion schillings. An additional 1,209 million schillings has in the meantime become available from interest accumulations (342.6 million) and redemption payments (866.3 million). A total of 850 million schillings has been expended for currency stabilization purposes, i.e. in order to reduce banknote circulation. 234 million schillings have been set aside for purposes of increasing productivity (but have not yet been put to actual use). 873 million schillings have been deposited with the American Fund for covering administrative expenditures and 400 million schillings have been entered in an interim account through which disbursements for releases are effected.

Such releases — which have actually been used by borrowers — have been made in the amount of 10,461.2 million schillings. Thus, the total amount of actual money released is somewhat higher, amounting to 11,954.67 million schillings. As of September 30, 1955, the balance in the Special Account was 4,082.5 million schillings. As already mentioned, however, 3,155.6 million schillings of this amount is covered only by Federal Treasury Bills from the depreciation program and therefore do not represent tangible resources. Consequently, the true balance of the 1955 Special Account amounted to something less than one billion schillings on September 30, 1955. As of the same date, industry and trade had received releases in the amount of 7,227,475,230 schillings from the counterpart account, i.e. 60.45% of all money released. The remaining, non-industrial sections of the economy received 4,727,195,000 schillings, or 39.55%.

SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRIAN TRADE TIES. During 1955, Austrian activity in the direction of concluding trade agreements was very intensive. With two countries trade relations were placed on a contractual agreement basis for the first time. These were Chile, with which a trade agreement was concluded, and the Soviet Union, with which Austria reached agreements on trade, navigation, exchange of goods and payments proceedings.

Other trade agreements with Egypt, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Western Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Iceland, Yugoslavia, Holland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Hungary and Uruguay were either extended or amended, as was also the "Chamber Agreement" with Eastern Germany. The agreement with Colombia expired during 1955 and was not renewed.

UNDERSECRETARY KREISKY ON AUSTRIA'S UN MEMBERSHIP. Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declared in a recent lecture in Vienna that Austria is voluntarily assuming the full responsibility which membership in the United Nations places upon her and is consciously following a policy of taking a stand on all world issues as they arise. Secretary Kreisky declared further that the concept of Austrian neutrality lies somewhere between the Swiss and Swedish concepts and that the Austrian form represents a third variation of European neutrality.

69 AUSTRIAN TRADE AGENCIES ABROAD. At the beginning of 1956, the foreign organization of the Federal Chamber of Commerce included 69 foreign agencies in all parts of the world, i.e. 39 trade agencies in foreign countries headed by "Trade Delegates," 20 "Foreign Branches" and 10 Honorary Correspondent's Offices. Of the trade agencies in foreign countries, 19 are in Europe, 9 in North and South America, 7 in Asia, 3 in Africa and one in Australia. Seven of the Foreign Branches are in America, 5 in Asia and 4 each in Europe and Africa. Of the Honorary Correspondent's Offices, 3 are in America, 3 in Africa, 2 each in Australia and Oceania.

AUSTRIAN ATOM STUDY GROUP BEING ORGANIZED. A meeting has been scheduled to be held in Vienna shortly for organizing the "Austrian Atomic Energy Study Corporation." A committee of organizers for the unit recently called on agencies and companies in Austria interested in the exploitation of atomic energy to subscribe to stocks in the new corporation. Thus far, 52 Austrian companies are participating with a total capital of over 3 million schillings.

STEADY DECREASE IN BANKRUPTCIES. According to statistics of the "Credit Protection Association," there has been a decrease in the number of bankruptcies and settlements with creditors for the period 1953 to the end of 1955. The number of settlements fell to 385 in 1955, as against 506 in 1953 and 412 in 1954; bankruptcies dropped to 427, as against 464 in 1953 and 473 in 1954. In the last quarter of 1955, however, 24 more settlement proceedings were opened than during the corresponding period of 1954, i.e. 108 as against 84. The "Credit Protection Association" considers the cause for the last-mentioned development to lie partly in the tight credit restrictions and partly in the overimportation of liberalized merchandise in certain fields. The annual statistics also show a noteworthy increase within the "Food and Restaurants" group.

AUSTRIAN CIGARETTE SALES RISE 13%. During 1955, sales of Austrian tobacco products rose an average of approximately 13%. The total value of these products amounted to 2,141 million schillings. The number of cigarettes sold rose from 6,300 million in 1954 to 7,100 million in 1955. Cigar sales increased from 58 million to 65 million. Sales also included 81 tons of chewing tobacco and 17 tons of snuff. The unprocessed material used in Austrian tobacco articles came from the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

612 JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES IN AUSTRIA. The Central Association of Austrian Joint-Stock Companies has published a survey dealing with the 59 "Schillingseröffnungsbilanzen" drawn up thus far under the new "Schillingseröffnungsbilanz-Gesetz". In individual cases, the revaluation of stock capital amounted to as much as thirty times the original value of the capital. However, there were also revaluations to the extent of 17 and 18 times the original value. Seventeen joint-stock companies assumed other legal forms. In most cases, January 1, 1955, was chosen as a deadline for the new arrangements to take effect. As of December 31, 1955, there were 612 joint-stock companies in Austria. Despite the formation of 9 new companies, the total number of joint-stock companies decreased by 15 in 1955 — the 1954 figure was 627 — as a result of transformations into other legal forms.

NEW BANKNOTES FEATURE BRUCKNER PORTRAIT. With its recent issue of a new 1,000-schilling banknote, the Austrian National Bank has completed its series of new banknotes. The new note features a portrait of the Austrian composer, Anton Bruckner, and its watermark is a picture of the same composer. The reverse of the bill shows Bruckner's organ at the St. Florian Benedictine Monastery in Upper Austria. Several artists worked for more than one-and-a-half years on the bill. A group of the best copper-plate engravers was busy for fully 6 months in reproducing the Bruckner organ alone. This new 1,000-schilling note is considered to be the most successful and most artistically perfect to come out of the Austrian Bank Note Printing Office to date.

FOURTH DONAWITZ BLAST FURNACE BLOWN IN. A fourth blast furnace was recently placed in operation at the Donawitz Plant of the Austrian Alpine-Montan Corporation. With its daily output of 800 tons of pig iron, the capacity of the new furnace greatly exceeds those of the plant's other operative blast furnaces, the daily capacity of which is between 350 and 500 tons of pig iron.

STEADY INCREASE IN DANUBE TRAFFIC. The Austrian Danube Steamship Company transported a total of approximately 1.9 million tons of goods during 1955, as against approximately 1.6 million tons in 1954. Of the total traffic involved — the figures in parentheses are those of 1954 — the run from Regensburg and Passau to Linz accounts for 934,300 (804,000) tons, of which 722,300 (720,000) tons were coal. On the run from Linz to Regensburg and Passau, the amount was 390,000 (447,000) tons, of which 147,600 (324,000) tons were pig iron. The amount transported to Vienna from Regensburg, Passau and Linz was 236,100 (232,000) tons, including 72,000 (192,300) tons of Ruhr and Saar coal for the Vienna gas works. On the return run, i.e. from Vienna to Linz, Regensburg and Passau, the amount transported was 311,900 (191,600) tons, including 272,600 (167,500) tons of mineral oil products. Downstream traffic to Southeastern Europe accounted for 28,700 tons of merchandise and the upstream traffic 20,700 tons.

FUEL CONSUMPTION UP. The decrease in gasoline prices, which went into effect in mid-November, 1955, has led to a considerable rise in domestic sales, though not to the expected level. The principal reason for this development is that large amounts of imported gasoline were still in stock and the reduction in prices took place at a time when gasoline consumption began to drop off for seasonal reasons. Although a considerable amount of gasoline (93,000 tons) was still imported from foreign countries during 1955, a pronounced decrease in the use of foreign brands of gasoline has been noted since the cut in the price of domestic fuel.

Inclusive of imports, domestic consumption of fuels was as follows in 1955: approximately 240,000 tons of automobile gasoline, 270,000 tons of Diesel oil, 21,000 tons of petroleum, 65,000 tons of lubricants, 45,000 tons of bitumen and about 930,000 tons of heating oil. Over 50,000 tons of Diesel oil were exported to Western Germany, but sales to that country are running into difficulties because of sharp Rumanian and Italian competition. The tight heating oil situation expected for the winter months has not yet come about, partly due to the mild weather and partly to the increase in heating oil production to approximately 80,000 tons per month. Moreover, many large-scale consumers have installed tanks which were filled during the summer for the purpose of establishing a reserve for the winter months. During 1955, an additional amount of approximately 30,000 tons of heating oil came from Hungary and, to a lesser extent, from Italy.

In our report on the reduction of the price of gasoline in Austria (Austrian Information, Vol. VIII, No. 20, of Nov. 26), as a result of an error in the conversion of liters to gallons, an incorrect price was indicated. The present price in Austria for Austrian gasoline is \$0.45 per gallon.

FINAL 1955 EMPLOYMENT FIGURES 80,000 HIGHER THAN FOR 1954. As of the end of 1955, there was a total of 2,075,374 wage earners at work in Austria. This figure is 80,000 higher than at the end of 1954. As a result of seasonal decreases in the employment level of the construction industry as well as of the agricultural and forestry fields, the number of unemployed rose to 153,925 in December 1955. The latter figure, however, was 23,618 lower than at the end of December 1954.

NEW RECORDS IN COAL PRODUCTION. The Austrian coal-mining industry set a new record in 1955 with its production of over 6.75 million tons. This output was more than 350,000 tons higher than that of 1954. It is also worthy of note that, thanks to a 4% increase in shift output, the per capita productivity in the coal industry has again risen.

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 8TH DORNBIRN TEXTILE FAIR. Dornbirn, the most important industrial city in Western Austria, is holding its 8th "Export and Sample Fair" from July 27 to August 5, 1956. Last year the Dornbirn Fair attracted worldwide attention, especially in its role as a specialized Austrian textile fair. In 1955, the Dornbirn event featured displays by 1,100 exhibitors from 17 nations and was attended by 265,000 visitors, including 95,000 interested parties from foreign countries.

BIG INCREASE IN AIR TRAFFIC. There was a substantial increase in air traffic to Austria last year and it is expected that the coming tourist season will see yet a further increase in the number of planes using Austrian airports.

According to the Office of Air Transportation, the number of passengers processed through Austrian airports in 1955 increased by more than 50,000. In 1954, landings and take-offs totalled 6,306 with 90,890 passengers carried; from January to November 1955 there were 7,774 landings and take-offs carrying 138,905 passengers.

By far the greatest plane traffic was at Schwechat Airport in Vienna.

"AUSTRIAN CAKE SERVICE" IS PLANNED. At a recent meeting of Austria's confectioners, it was decided to establish an "Austrian Cake Service" which, operating along the same lines as "Flowers By Wire," would make it possible to place orders for cakes to be sent to any address in Austria. These cakes would then be baked on the spot and delivered to the desired address. At the same time, the confectioners adopted standard designations for certain cake recipes.

AUSTRIAN MACHINERY FOR U.S. In the face of extremely keen American and international competition, the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOeST) has succeeded in obtaining a large-scale order for the export of 100 lathes to the U.S. It is primarily the western American states which are showing interest in the Austrian lathes, although export of the same equipment to still other parts of the U.S. is being prepared. At the present time, VOeST is also working on export orders for lathes to Mexico, Iraq, Lebanon, Finland and Denmark. Recently, the company succeeded in exporting 60 of its lathes as a result of a single trade fair in Western Germany.

The ELIN Works have also obtained a new order from the U.S., involving the delivery of 9 transformers for the Bonville Power Plant in Oregon. The order to ELIN represents a value of approximately \$600,000.

MILK PIPELINES FROM ALPINE PASTURES TO VALLEYS BELOW. A 1½-mile plastic pipe, running from a mountain pasture to the valley in Salzburg's Stubachtal district, will carry milk down a descent of more than 3200 ft. On the basis of satisfactory experience with such pipes, which involve no deterioration in the quality of the milk, a similar pipeline for milk also has been built at Adriach, near Frohnleiten in Styria. When not in operation, the pipeline will be continuously purified with spring water and kept free of germs.

GOOD ATTENDANCE AT ADULT EDUCATION COURSES. In 1955 a total of 134,364 persons attended 6,292 courses in Adult Education throughout Austria. Over 1,200,000 persons attended the special individual events organized by the Adult Education Schools.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

MOZARTEUM ORCHESTRA TO APPEAR IN CARNEGIE HALL ON MARCH 9. The Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra, which is scheduled to arrive in the U.S. on March 5, will make its New York debut at Carnegie Hall on March 9. It will then leave on an extended concert tour covering 40 different American cities. From April 24 to 27, it will participate in Columbia University's Mozart Festival. The soloists with the orchestra, which is conducted by Ernst Maerzendorfer, will be Emmy Loose of the Vienna State Opera and Ralph Herbert.

U.S. PREMIERE OF "DON GIOVANNI" FILM TO BE SHOWN IN CARNEGIE HALL. In connection with the bicentennial celebrations in honor of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the first American showing of the color film "Don Giovanni" will take place in Carnegie Hall on Feb. 26, 1956. The film, which was produced on the basis of the 1954 Salzburg Festival version of the opera, is being presented by I. R. Maxwell. Filmed in Eastman Color, the picture was produced and directed by Paul Czinner. The stage director was Herbert Graf. The stars of the performance are Cesare Siepi, Lisa della Casa, Elisabeth Gruemmer, Erna Berger, Otto Edelmann, Anton Dermota and Walter Berry. The featured orchestra is the Vienna Philharmonic, under the baton of Wilhelm Furtwaengler.

EUROVISION TELEVISES OFFICIAL MOZART CELEBRATION IN SALZBURG. The official ceremony of the Austrian Federal Government on January 27, 1956, honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was the first telecast from Austria on the Eurovision network and was seen on the television programs of all European countries. The ceremony, at which Minister of Education Drimmel and Mozarteum Director Paumgartner were the speakers, featured a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic which performed Mozart's Symphony in F Minor, K. 184, and his "Haffner" Symphony, K. 385.

FIRST PERFORMANCE OF YOUTHFUL MOZART WORK IN VIENNA. As its contribution to Mozart Commemoration Day, the Academy of Music presented the first Vienna performance of Mozart's oratorio "Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebotes" (The Obligation of the First Commandment), with members of the Academy's master classes and the Academy orchestra. This youthful work of Mozart, which has probably had no stage presentation since its Salzburg premiere in 1767, owes its composition to the fact that the Archbishop of Salzburg did not believe the accounts he had heard about Mozart's marvellous talent. He therefore had the then 10-year-old Wolfgang confined for a whole week, gave him the text of the above-named work and demanded that he set it to music within the week. The Archbishop was deeply impressed by Mozart's achievement and had the work performed in Salzburg in 1767.

INTERNATIONAL MOZART YOUTH ORCHESTRA FOUNDED IN VIENNA. Musicians from all over Europe have been arriving in Vienna recently to take up their positions as members of an International Youth Orchestra being organized in honor of Mozart Year. The group will give special Mozart concerts for Viennese school children. All members of the new orchestra are graduates of Europe's leading schools of music, many of whom had already appeared as soloists in international competitions. The concerts will be directed by the young Viennese conductor Wolfgang Gabriel.

MOZART COMPOSED WORKS FOR INSTRUMENT INVENTED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. During his stay in Europe, one of the persons Benjamin Franklin met in Italy was the astronomer and physicist Giovanni Batista Beccaria. On the occasion of his departure from Europe in 1762 Franklin wrote Beccaria about a new musical instrument which he had constructed while in Europe, using as a basis preliminary models made by the Englishman Puckeridge. The instrument in question was a glass harmonica consisting of 37 glass hemispheres. When touched with the fingertips, the individual rotating hemispheres produced graceful, delicate tones. Franklin told Beccaria that he had named the instrument "armonica" (harmonica) in honor of the musical Italian language. In those days, the instrument was universally popular throughout Europe. At the Austrian Imperial Court, for instance, Princess Marie Antoinette took harmonica lessons. It is a little known fact that in 1791 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote two works for this instrument: an Adagio and Rondo for Glass harmonica, Flute, Oboe, Viola and Cello (K. 617) and also a short adagio for solo glass harmonica. Since Franklin died in 1790, he had no occasion to hear Mozart's compositions for the instrument he had invented.

MOZART'S OPUS I PRINTED IN FACSIMILE. The City of Salzburg has decided to print a facsimile edition of Mozart's Opus 1, which is in the possession of the Salzburg Museum. This work, a minuet with trio, is Mozart's first authentic composition and is listed in the Koechel Catalogue as No. 1. It is one of the most prized exhibits in the Salzburg Museum. The 1,000 copies to be printed will remain the exclusive property of the city of Salzburg and will not be for sale. This bibliophilic gem will be reserved by Salzburg for gifts and official purposes and be awarded to persons who have made outstanding contributions to musical research.

MOZART COMMEMORATIVE COINS ISSUED. On January 27, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, issuance of a 25-schilling silver coin was initiated. These commemorative coins will be on sale at the Austrian National Bank throughout Mozart Year, 1956. The front side of the coin, designed by Professor Arnold Hartig, shows the coats of arms of the Austrian provinces, arranged in a wreath. The design on the reverse, the work of Professor Edwin Grinauer, is a representation of the Mozart Monument in Vienna's Burggarten. The coin is 800 parts silver and 200 parts copper and weighs 13 grams.

MOZART YEAR IN FRANCE. The Mozart bicentenary is being celebrated in France with numerous special events and the French Mozart Society is engaging in a wide range of activities in honor of the composer. On January 27, the anniversary of his birth, Mozart's Coronation Mass was performed in the Church of St. Eustache in Paris. The religious part of the ceremony was presided over by Cardinal Feltin. On the evening of the same day there was an official Mozart celebration at the Sorbonne and the Paris Grand Opera presented its new production of "The Magic Flute."

All of the events for the first quarter of 1956 have already been arranged. These include concerts by various Paris orchestras and special programs by the French Radio Networks devoted to the works of Mozart, as well as the establishment of a Mozart Prize for the best performance of one of that composer's works by a recently-formed chamber music association. From March 22-25, the French Center for Scientific Research is organizing an international meeting devoted to the study of international influences on Mozart.

Among the other projects of the "Association of the Friends of Mozart" are the following: organization of a concert in the chapel of Versailles Palace on May 14 and performance of a Mozart mass in the Palais de Chaillot on May 17. On June 21, a Mozart concert will take place in the Hotel de Beauvais, where Mozart lived during his stay in Paris.

Numerous events in honor of the composer are also taking place outside of Paris. In Aix-en-Provence there will be a performance of "Don Giovanni," in Besancon and Bordeaux of the C Major Mass. Vichy, Menton and Colmar are organizing their own Mozart festivals, while Strasbourg is featuring a guest appearance of the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra.

The organizing committee for the Mozart Festivals in France has proposed that a European postage stamp featuring a picture of Mozart be printed.

MOZART COMMEMORATIONS IN PORTUGAL. The bicentenary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is being commemorated in Portugal with an extensive series of gala concerts and operatic performances. On February 23, there will be a performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" at the Lisbon Opera House, with Erich Kunz and Patricia Brinton in the roles. Alexander Kranhals will conduct the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra and introductory remarks will be made by Professor Erich Schenk of the University of Vienna, a noted Mozart scholar. On March 2 there will be a performance of "Don Giovanni," also with Kunz and Brinton.

THORNTON WILDER IN VIENNA. During his recent extended visit to Vienna, Thornton Wilder, the well-known American author and playwright, attended performances at various Viennese theaters, including the new State Opera and the Burgtheater. Wilder was especially impressed by the Burgtheater production of Raimund's "Der Verschwender" (The Spendthrift). Wilder stated in Vienna that he is presently working on the libretto for a modern opera, for which a young twelve-tone composer in the U.S. is writing the music.

1956 INTERNATIONAL CITY PLANNING CONGRESS IN VIENNA. The 23rd International City Planning Congress, this year dedicated to the theme "The City and its Suburbs," will be held in Vienna from July 22-28, 1956. The event is being organized by the "International Federation for Housing and Town Planning." To judge by the reservations already being made, the congress will be attended by approximately 1,000 community experts, city planners and architects, sociologists and other specialists. Among the American participants will be Mr. Lewis Mumford (Columbia University), Mr. Marshall Miller (Columbia University), Mr. Serd (Harvard University) and Mr. Bogner (Harvard University).

Concurrently with the congress, Vienna is organizing an international town planning exhibition, to be entitled "The City and Suburbs, Today and Tomorrow," and also an international film festival on the subject of international urban planning. At the latter festival, the "International Prize of the City of Vienna" will be awarded for the best film on housing and town architecture. Numerous excursions will also be organized in connection with the congress. The meeting will issue a number of public recommendations with reference to its working theme.

CLUYTENS TO CONDUCT AT VIENNA OPERA. Andre Cluytens, who will visit the United States this year as conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic, will shortly conduct performances of "Tristan and Isolde" and "Salome" at the Vienna State Opera.

GRILLPARZER PRIZE FOR FRITZ HOCHWAELDER. The committee appointed by the Austrian Academy of Sciences to award the Grillparzer Prize for 1956 has unanimously voted it to Fritz Hochwaelder for his play "Donadieu." The award also pays tribute to Hochwaelder for all of his dramatic works. The Grillparzer Prize is awarded every three years.

PROF GROSSMANN APPOINTED ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF VIENNA CHOIR BOYS. Professor Ferdinand Grossmann of the Vienna State Academy, a successful choral director and for many years head of the Vienna Academic Chamber Chorus, has been appointed artistic director of the Vienna Choir Boys. At the same time, Professor Grossmann was appointed conductor of the Vienna Hofkapelle (Court Chapel).

PREMIERE OF "DER STURM" SET FOR JUNE. The world premiere of Frank Martin's opera "Der Sturm" (The Tempest), based on Shakespeare's work of the same name, will take place in the Vienna State Opera in June of this year. The performance will be conducted by Ernest Ansermet. Heinz Arnold will be the stage director and the sets are being designed by Georg Wakhevitsch.

BURGTHEATER TOURING GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND. An ensemble of members of Vienna's Burgtheater is currently making an extended tour of Germany and Switzerland. The principal work on its repertory is Richard Billinger's dramatization of Knut Hamsun's short story "Victoria," starring Kaethe Gold and Josef Meinrad.

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SEMINAR AT BAD AUSSEE. The Vienna Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts will hold its "Tenth Anniversary Festival" in July of this year at Bad Aussee near Salzburg, and the International Music Seminar, under the direction of Professor Paul Emerich, has been invited to hold its annual summer courses there at the same time. The Music Seminar will offer courses on Analysis of the Classics. Introduction to Modern Music, Memory Training, Building of Operatic Repertoire and Chamber Music. The American group is planning to fly direct to Vienna the last week in June and, after a week in Vienna, they will proceed by train to Bad Aussee. There will be plenty of opportunity for attending the Salzburg Festival where the Mozart bicentennial celebrations will be in progress.

NEW 360-FT. ANTENNA IN OPERATION. The 360 ft. directional antenna recently placed in operation at Fleckendorf in Upper Austria is the tallest of its kind in all Europe. The base of the mast is 65 ft. wide, since fluctuations of the spire, even at wind velocities of more than 62 m.p.h., must not amount to more than 0.2°, otherwise distortions in tone or on the television screen are created. The mast includes 3 parabolic mirrors, by means of which connections with other ultrashort-wave transmitters are established. The new antenna, which is also being used for television, first went into operation on January 27, 1956, when it carried a Salzburg Festival program in honor of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's birth. The program was telecast over the entire Eurovision network. For the time being, all car telephone service in Upper Austria will be carried by the new Fleckendorf mast and all radiotelephone communications between New York and Vienna will also be carried by this installation.

NEW FILMS FROM AUSTRIA. The first Austrian film of the New Year, "Liebe, die den Kopf verliert," a Paula Wessely production, is now being filmed at the Sievering Studio in Vienna. Based on a book by Johannes Mario Simmel and Emil Burri, the picture is being directed by Thomas Engel. Featured in the lead roles are Susi Nicoletti, Winnie Markus, Maria Holst, Nicole Heesters, Lotte Lang, Paul Hubschmidt and Attila Hoerbiger. The outdoor shots are being filmed in Vienna and Salzburg.

Schoenbrunn-Film is collaborating with Sascha-Film on the production "Gute Nacht, Mutter" starring Sabine Eggerth, and with the Oesterreichische Filmgesellschaft on "Ober, zahlen" and "Du bist die Liebe." Its program also includes pictures entitled "Wir von der Donau" and "Ihr Korporal."

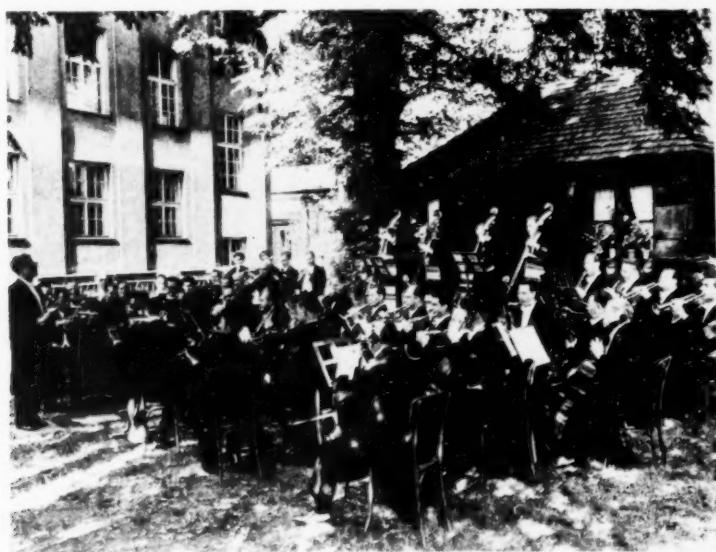
Wien-Film is preparing to film the two novels of Gulbransen entitled "Und ewig singen die Waelder" and "Das Erbe von Bjorndal." Scenes for these two films, which will be in color, will be shot on location in Norway shortly. Both pictures are being directed by Karl Hartl.

A new "Mayerling" film, produced by the Sascha company and directed by Rudolf Jugart, was recently completed at the Sievering studio. Based primarily on the most recent findings on the Mayerling affair, the new picture is the first "Mayerling" story to be produced in Austria. Starring are Rudolf Prack as Crown Prince Rudolf and Christiane Hoerbiger-Wessely as Baroness Vetsera.

THE SALZBURG MOZARTEUM ORCHESTRA

Salzburg used to be an ecclesiastical principality: The Archbishop was the ruler of the city and province (Salzburg is the name for both the city and the surrounding province) and most of the beautiful architectural gems of the area spring from the delight which the Salzburg Archbishops took in building. At the beginning of the 19th century, however, all of this magnificence came to an end. Napoleon's armies occupied the city and province and the independence of the little state was lost forever. The last reigning Archbishop, Hieronymus, Count Colloredo, fled to Vienna and the famous Court Chapel, which had Michael Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart for concertmasters and Leopold Mozart for assistant conductor, was dissolved.

The heritage of this magnificent institution was taken over by the Mozarteum Orchestra and continued down to the



The Mozarteum Orchestra at Rehearsal in Salzburg

present day. However, this orchestra is not the direct descendant of the former Court Chapel. It was only 50 years after Mozart's death, in 1851, that the establishment of the Mozarteum was conceived. At that time, the "International Foundation," the Academy and the Orchestra were still combined in a single, modest organization.

The history of the latter body is in part also the history of the "Mozarteum Orchestra."

The History of the Mozarteum Orchestra

On the 50th anniversary of Mozart's death, there was a desire to erect a monument to Salzburg's great native son. Interest was shown in the project throughout the world and the result was that, in addition to a monument, it proved possible to establish a second memorial, this one in the form of a school of music, as suggested by none less than Mozart's widow. The society which so successfully carried out these two projects was first known as the "Dommusikverein und Mozarteum" (Cathedral Music Society and Mozarteum). It was founded in 1841 and Mozart's widow, Konstanze Nissen, as well as his two sons, Wolfgang Amadeus and Carl, were appointed honorary members.

Within a few years, the list of honorary members had been extended to include the following famous names, among others: Louis Spohr, Otto Nicolai (founder of the Vienna Philharmonic), Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Franz Liszt, Carl Czerny, Albert Lortzing, Simon Sechter and the latter's pupil, Anton Bruckner, who applied for the position of director on two occasions.



Ernst Maerzendorfer

The purpose of the Mozarteum orchestra was to give symphonic and chamber music concerts, to cultivate liturgical music and, on occasion, to participate in the Salzburg Festivals. Until the third decade of the present century, the orchestra existed without any contractual basis and was made up of the teachers and best pupils of the School, as well as of amateurs and members of the Cathedral Music Society Orchestra (later known as the Theater Orchestra). Its conductor was whoever happened to be the Director of the Conservatory.

This idea of holding Mozart festivals in Salzburg and its subsequent implementation finally lead up to the organization of the famous "Salzburg Festivals," which have been held without interruption since 1920.

"The Orchestra of the Mozarteum" participated in the first Music Festival in the year 1842, and its first conductor was Mozart's son, Wolfgang Amadeus.

For nearly 100 years the history of the orchestra was confined to Salzburg. In 1932, however, part of this ensemble, under the name "Mozart Orchestra," went on tour for the first time, with a repertory limited, of course, to the works of Mozart. Significantly, the tour took it to Prague where the jubilation and enthusiasm following the performance was similar to that which greeted the first performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" in the same city. The orchestra was conducted by Bernhard Paumgartner on this tour.

"The Salzburg Mozart Style"

By now, the orchestra has visited nearly all of Europe and its special kind of Mozart interpretation, "the Salzburg Mozart style," has met with enthusiastic response everywhere.

Since 1938, the orchestra has functioned as a private institution, detached from the "School" and the "Foundation," and it has its own members who are engaged on a contractual basis.

The scope of the orchestra's activities has increased considerably, now including symphony concerts, theater and radio work, concert tours, participation in the Salzburg Festivals, etc. At the time of the first Salzburg Festival after World War Two, neither the Vienna Philharmonic nor the Vienna Symphony Or-

chestra was in Salzburg and the Mozarteum Orchestra was the only musical organization available. This was a difficult task for an ensemble which had just been reorganized, since many of its members were still prisoners of war and the gaps had to be filled by musicians who happened to be present in the "desirable" American zone of Austria.

The orchestra had permanent directors only for a short time. For many years, only guest conductors had been engaged. It was during this time that Clemens Krauss made his first reappearance and that the orchestra made the acquaintance of many great conductors, whose association is still recalled with pleasure: e.g. Dr. Volkmar Andreae, Dr. Karl Boehm, Alceo Galliera, Joseph Keilberth, Hans Knappertsbusch, Joseph Krips, Rudolf Moralt, Paul Hindemith, Hans Pfitzner, Paul Sacher, Hans Rosbaud and Lovro von Matacic.

The famous conductor Herbert von Karajan directed the Mozarteum Orchestra in his first concert, 26 years ago. Karajan's father, although a physician by profession, was for many years a member of the orchestra as a bass clarinetist.

No Salzburg Chauvinism

In 1953, after years of performing under guest conductors, the "Mozarteum Orchestra Society" — which two years previously had relieved the former "working group" of its financial problems — decided to appoint an artistic director

and to increase the orchestra to 72 members. Ernst Maerzendorfer was engaged for the post. This capable and dedicated young conductor had set himself two tasks: first, substantially to extend the orchestra's repertory by forcing through the inclusion of works by "modern" composers and secondly, to break the bonds of the traditional chauvinism of the Salzburgers and to engage only the best performers from the musical point of view. Of course, the orchestra consists primarily of Salzburgers and Austrians but also of many "foreigners," including 3 concertmasters (there are 5 in all) from Germany, a solo oboist from Paris, a solo bassoonist from Zagreb and a solo horn player from Denmark. This international ensemble has developed "harmoniously," so to speak, into a true musical family whose members share each other's joys and sorrows.

The relationship of the Orchestra to the President of the of the "Mozarteum" Academy, Professor Bernhard Paumgartner, Privy Councillor, who was for decades its director and supervisor, is that of a son to a father. Especially during the Festivals, when there are always ovations and demonstrations of gratitude in honor of this great Mozart scholar and interpreter, the attachment of the musicians for their conductor finds particularly eloquent expression. Paumgartner's enthusiasm for Mozart has been transmitted to the members of the Orchestra, who carry it with them on their tours. And the purpose of the tours of the Mozarteum Orchestra is to give melodic expression to the atmosphere of Salzburg.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120



Miami Univ. Library
Periodical Record
Oxford, Ohio